

Box AF
Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

**AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR
RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

Dear Sir:

In response to the August 27, 2002 Official Action
(Paper No. 12), please amend the above-identified patent
application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 5 and 15 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method for determining the presence or
absence of a target nucleic acid sequence in a sample
nucleic acid, the method comprising:
- (a) exposing the sample to a detection agent comprising at
least two separate components, including a first agent
having a metal surface associated with a first target
binding species (TBS) and a second agent having a
metal surface associated with a second TBS, different
from said first TBS, at least one of said metal
surfaces being associated with a SER(R)S-active
species (SAS), each of said first and second TBS being
effective to bind to the target sequence, and wherein
the binding of the first and second TBS to the target

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